

SDG&E Report on De-Energization Events: November 11–16, 2018

- 2. All factors considered by SDG&E in its decision to de-energize, including wind speed, temperature, humidity and vegetation moisture in the vicinity of the de-energized circuits.**

Response:

The decision to de-energize for public safety is not made based on a single factor; numerous criteria are considered when making this decision.

Key bases for these decisions included, but were not limited to:

- The RFW issued by the NWS indicated that the combination of strong winds and low relative humidity would result in critical fire weather conditions with the potential for extreme fire behavior;
- The High Wind Warning issued by the NWS indicated the potential for wind gusts up to 70 mph or more in the San Diego County valleys and mountains. Potential impacts mentioned included downed trees and power lines;
- The Santa Ana Wildfire Threat Index (SAWTI) was rated High (“Upon ignition, fire will grow very rapidly, will burn intensely, and will be very difficult to control.”);
- NOAA’s Storm Prediction Center’s Fire Weather Outlook indicated “Extremely Critical Fire Weather” conditions for portions of the SDG&E service territory;
- SDG&E’s Fire Potential Index (FPI) was Extreme, indicating the potential for large fires should an ignition occur;
- The Predictive Services unit of the Southern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) designated zones SC08 and SC11 as “High Risk” in their 7-Day Significant Fire Potential product;
- Live Fuel Moisture values were critically dry (~55%) and Dead Fuel Moisture values were extremely low (2% to 4%);
- In many cases, recorded wind gusts along de-energized circuits were in excess of 50 mph, in combination with single-digit humidity. Additional details on conditions at the time of de-energization can be found in the table provided in Response 11;
- Wind climatology of each circuit or circuit segment;
- Infrastructure in temporary configurations due to construction activities;
- Observer reports of imminent threats to power lines, including: tree branches encroaching overhead lines, wire movement, debris blown into lines;
- Fire-suppression-air resources could be unavailable due to high winds and time of day;
- Firefighting resources in region drawn down to approximately 60% of normal as resources were diverted to fires in other areas of the state;
- Current wildfire activity across the state including the Woolsey Fire, the Hill Fire, and the Camp Fire;
- Accessibility could be constrained should an ignition occur;
- The outages could be targeted to minimize impacts to customers; and
- A review of active outages on SDG&E’s system.